

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024078

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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R 310107Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 024078

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS STATE 024078

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JANUARY 30, 1976:

MR. TRATTNER: I HAVE ONE FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
YESTERDAY, THE SECRETARY MET WITH A SPECIAL EMISSARY SENT
BY HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO TO DISCUSS THE
SITUATION IN THE SAHARA, FORMER PRIME MINISTER KARIM
LAMRANI. FORMER PRIME MINISTER KARIM LAMRANI AND THE
SECRETARY HAD A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION IN THE SPIRIT OF
THE LONG-STANDING, CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND
THE UNITED STATES.

Q. DID THE MOROCCAN EMISSARY ASK FOR MATERIAL SUPPORT
OF SOME KIND IN THEIR FIGHT WITH ALGERIA?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF A
DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE LIKE THIS, BUT IN A GENERAL WAY, JUST
LET ME SAY THAT WE HAVE A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO, AND THAT IS GOING TO
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PAGE 03 STATE 024078

CONTINUE.

Q. ARE YOU FINISHED?

A. THAT IS GOING TO CONTINUE IN LINE WITH THE LONG-STAND-
ING RELATIONSHIP WITH MOROCCO. IT IS NATURAL THAT THE
SECRETARY AND MR. LAMRANI REVIEWED THIS ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM WE HAVE WITH MOROCCO. IN ANY CASE, ON THE

SUBJECT OF THE REPORTED CLASHES AND FIGHTING IN THE SAHARA, THIS IS CLEARLY A MATTER TO BE SETTLED BY THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES CONCERNED, FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

Q. ON OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, WAS THE PURPORTED PRESENCE OF 300 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS ON BEHALF OF THE ALGERIANS DISCUSSED?

A. I CAN'T SAY THAT FOR CERTAIN. WE HAVE, IN ANY CASE, NO CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF CUBANS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES FEEL THAT THE U.N. HAS NO ROLE THERE?

A. NO. I THINK WE DEFINITELY FEEL THE U.N. DOES. IN FACT, AS I WAS SAYING, WE HOPE THAT THE FIGHTING WILL STOP, AND THAT IT WILL NOT DISRUPT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENT OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION LAST DECEMBER 10.

Q. COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC ON THE CUBANS IN ALGERIA? HAVE YOU HAD SIMPLY PRESS REPORTS, OR HAVE YOU HAD INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, OR DIPLOMATIC REPORTS, OR WHAT?

A. NO, WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT CUBANS AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ADVISERS ARE IN ALGERIA OR IN THE SAHARA, EXCUSE ME, AND I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF IT.

Q. WHAT IS THE SIZE AND NATURE OF OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAM IN MOROCCO?

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PAGE 04 STATE 024078

A. WE HAVE A COMBINED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROGRAM IN THE CURRENT -- NO, IN FISCAL '75. IT WAS DOLS 23.5 MILLION. AND THAT WAS DOLS 14 MILLION IN FMS CREDIT, DOLS 9.5 ECONOMIC. YOU SHOULD ALSO REMEMBER THAT MOROCCO MAKES CASH PURCHASES OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, TOO.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT PART?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. HOW MUCH WAS PROPOSED FOR 1976?

A. PROPOSED '76 ECONOMIC AID, DOLS 6.7 MILLION. AND

MILITARY, DOLS 30 MILLION.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE FIGURES YET ON '77?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. ONLY FOR ISRAEL.

A. UNLESS THEY ARE IN THE BUDGET.

Q. IS THERE ANY SPECIFIC REASON FOR THE INCREASE FROM
DOLS 14 MILLION TO DOLS 30 MILLION IN MILITARY AID?

A. NO SPECIFIC REASON. IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT, I MADE
NOTE OF THE LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT IT
WAS GOING TO CONTINUE, I THINK. BUT I HAVE NO SPECIFIC
REASON FOR THE INCREASE.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT MOROCCO FULLY IN THIS
DISPUTE?

A. I THINK WE WILL STAND WHERE WE WERE ON THAT.

Q. I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE WERE.

A. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CONFLICT THERE SETTLED BY
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PAGE 05 STATE 024078

THE AFRICAN NATIONS IN THIS AREA WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTER-
VENTION OR INTERFERENCE.

Q. WAS THIS MR. LAMRANI'S VIEW, AS WELL?

A. I AM UNABLE TO SAY. I WAS NOT THERE FOR THE CONVERSA-
TION.

Q. DO WE THINK THAT THE FACT THAT MOROCCO AND ALGERIA
ARE FIGHTING OVER TERRITORY THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY IS IN
DISPUTE MAKES IT A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL
AMERICAN POSITION ABOUT NON-INTERFERENCE IN INDIGENOUS
COUNTRIES? IN OTHER WORDS, WHY IS THIS ONLY AN AFRICAN
PROBLEM?

A. I THINK IT IS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA.

Q. THE MOROCCAN EMISSARY, WHEN DID HE ARRIVE?

A. WHEN DID HE COME? IT WAS YESTERDAY.

Q. HE HAS LEFT?

A. I'M NOT SURE THAT HE HAS, BUT I THINK THAT'S PROBABLE, YES.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH ALGERIA ON ITS VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE SPANISH SAHARA?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. I COULD LOOK INTO THAT. I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE. I WOULD RECALL FOR YOU THAT I BELIEVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON MADE A TRIP TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN THAT AREA IN OCTOBER, AND I BELIEVE ALGIERS WAS ONE OF HIS STOPS. I'M NOT SURE OF THAT, BUT I THINK WE SAID AT THE TIME THAT THE SITUATION IN THE SAHARA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE THE SUBJECT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GO THERE WITH ANY SPECIFIC MISSION OR PROPOSAL.

Q. WHAT DOES THE MOROCCAN EMISSARY WANT? WAS IT AT HIS REQUEST HE CAME HERE?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 06 STATE 024078

A. I DON'T KNOW. I KNOW THE SECRETARY WELCOMED THE VISIT; I DON'T KNOW AT WHOSE REQUEST.

Q. WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LONG-STANDING RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, AS GOOD AS MOROCCO?

A. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE COMPARISONS.

Q. WHERE ELSE HAS THE UNITED STATES BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY PEOPLE?

A. THAT WOULD BE A LONG ENDEAVOR. WE CAN UNDERTAKE IT IF YOU LIKE. I THINK THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS, AT LEAST OF CUBANS, THAT I KNOW OF IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. I COULDN'T ANSWER YOU HERE AS TO WHAT WE CAN CONFIRM OR NOT CONFIRM. I'M NOT SURE WE CAN CONFIRM ANY EXCEPT WHAT WE SAID ABOUT ANGOLA.

Q. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT A SETTLEMENT BEING REACHED FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, WHAT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?

A. ANY THAT MIGHT PRESENT ITSELF.

Q. NO SPECIFIC --

A. I DON'T WANT TO INTERPRET IT FOR YOU. I WILL JUST

LEAVE IT WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID ON IT.

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